



# JAMESTOWN S'KLALLAM TRIBE

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September 11, 2014

Governor Jay Inslee  
Office of the Governor  
PO Box 40002  
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Re: Washington's proposal for human health criteria and revised water quality standards

Dear Governor Inslee:

On behalf of the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, I would like to express our appreciation for the attention that you have brought to the issue of toxic chemicals in Washington. However, at this time I would also like to acknowledge and support the letter from the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission that was submitted to you on September 5, 2014. We share the Commission's concerns over the timing and substance of your July proposal for revising the state's water quality standards. It has become increasingly apparent that action from the United States Environmental Protection Agency is needed to move this issue forward and ensure that protective standards are adopted and implemented.

The Jamestown S'Klallam Fish and Game Committee reviewed fish consumption rates in 2011, when we assumed that state action on this issue was imminent. The Committee recommended a fish consumption rate of at least 175 grams per day, as an appropriate step toward clean water and toxic chemical reduction. We recognize that this fish consumption rate is part of your proposal, but this criterion is largely rendered moot by weakened provisions in other parts of the standards. It is also disappointing that almost four years later, there is still no clear timeline in sight for the state to complete rule-making. We are sensitive to the transition that new standards would entail for businesses and municipalities, but we must place the health of citizens first.

The harvest and consumption of fisheries resources is a treaty right and an essential part of our culture and economy. Protecting the health of tribal citizens, especially our children, from exposure to toxic chemicals via fish consumption is a seven-generation issue. As the interrelated federal, tribal, and state efforts for toxic reduction move forward, we hope that our mutual goals for protecting human health will come to a protective and timely conclusion.

Sincerely,

W. Ron Allen  
Tribal Chairman/CEO

Cc: Dennis McLerran, Region 10 Administrator, EPA  
Maia Bellon, Director, Washington Department of Ecology